

Message Text

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43
ACTION SS-30

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R 241440Z JAN 74
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T GNEVA 0434

EXDIS

FROM MEPC DEL

E.O.11652 GDS
TAGS PFOR XF JO
SUBJ JORDANIAN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AT GENEVA

1. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ZREIKAT RECEIVED ME WARMLY DURING MY JANUARY 24 COURTESY CALL. IN COURSE OF CONVEYING SOME OF MY IMPRESSIONS FROM SECRETARY'S RECENT TRIP TO AREA, I SAID I UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS WANTED TO SEE HOW DISENGAGEMENT WOULD WORK OUT AND ALSO TO GET NEGOTIATIONS ON SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT UNDER WAY BEFORE MOVING ON TO NEXT PHASE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. WHEN ZREIKAT ASKED ME IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO START DISCUSSION AT GENEVA OF SOME OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES PARALLEL WITH SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND BEFORE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT WAS COMPLETED, I SAID MY PERSONAL VIEW WAS THIS WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL. ZREIKAT, WHO SEEMED DISAPPOINTED, SAID HE APPRECIATED HAVING MY OPINION ON SUBJECT FOR PRACTICAL AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL REASONS, SINCE AMONG OTHER THINGS HE HAD BEEN HOLDING THREE FLOORS OF A GENEVA HOTEL EVER SINCE DECEMBER 15.

2. ZREIKAT SAID THAT DESPITE SADAT'S CURRENT SWING THROUGH ARAB
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CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN HIS DECISION TO CONCLUDE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ZREIKAT WAS WORRIED ABOUT EGYPT'S RELATIVE ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD EVER SINCE SIGNING OF SIX-POINT CEASEFIRE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT IN NOVEMBER. IN ZREIKAT'S OPINION, SADAT WAS

NOT AS STRONG INSIDE EGYPT AS IT APPEARED, AND EXTREMIST PRESSURES ON HIM FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE EGYPT COULD EVENTUALLY PRODUCE NEGATIVE SHIFTS IN EGYPT'S POSTURE CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. JORDAN HAD APPARENTLY GOTTEN SOME FALLOUT FROM THIS SITUATION. ZREIKAT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN DELEGATIONS WERE HOUSED IN THE SAME GENEVA HOTEL DURING OPENING OF PEACE CONFERENCE, THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT AT ALL. ZREIKAT RELATED THIS TO FACT THAT EGYPTIANS AT THAT POINT (PRESUMABLY WITH IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR INTER-ARAB POSTURE IN MIND) WERE TALKING UP NOTION OF CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE.

3. ZREIKAT'S MAIN POINT TO ME WAS THAT IF ANY TIME WERE ALLOWED TO LAPSE FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AND BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE MOVED INTO POLITICAL PHASE, THIS WOULD IN HIS VIEW BE DANGEROUS. HE BELIEVED THAT NOT ONLY WOULD MOMENTUM BE LOST, BUT ARAB EXTREMISTS COULD EXPLOIT SITUATION, EMBARRASSING EGYPTIANS AND CAUSING POSITIONS TO HARDEN.BASSIN

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